

## RUSSIAN LAUNCH BLOWN UP.

## TWENTY-ONE KILLED LAYING MINES AT PORT ARTHUR.

**Viceroy Alexieff Also Reports the Loss of  
Three Men in a Skirmish at the Yalu  
—Rumors of Severe Fighting There  
—Japanese Transports Off Takushan.**

*Special Coast Despatches to The Star.*

SINGAPORE, April 22. Admiral Alexief, of the Russian fleet, whose steam launches were placing mines at Port Arthur one of the mines exploded prematurely beneath the stern of one of the launches. A lieutenant and twenty men were killed.

In another despatch addressed to the Czar Admiral Alexief states that a series of reconnaissances along the Yalu River has shown that the Japanese are concentrating. About one division is north of Wiju. They are also beginning to concentrate in Wundschuan, and are threatening the Korean inhabitants. Admiral Alexief adds:

"I am informed that quantities of material, apparently parts of pontoon bridge, are being collected opposite Mabioko

Island. Our scouts have killed two Japanese scouts, one of whom was apparently an officer. Our scouts have daringly reconnoitred for several days. Our right flank on the left bank of the Yalu has ascertained that only a few Japanese are south of the Pomakua River.

"These were occupied in preparing boats. A Russian detachment of two officers and thirty-two men went there in three boats. The enemy, however, discovered them and

The lights of Japanese ships had been seen from the neighborhood of Takushan for several nights. It is believed that the Japanese intended to make an earlier landing, but were delayed by bad weather, which would have imperilled the small craft in which the Japanese have to cross miles of shallow water. A naval attaché here, who is familiar with the coast, says

A detachment ashore with rapid fire guns could repel an army corps, as warships would not be able to get near enough to protect the troops in landing.

A despatch from Port Arthur says that a force of 1,500 Japanese has been defeated in an engagement on the Yalu River.

PARIS, April 22.—The Journal says that Gen. Kourapatkin has telegraphed to the Czar that he has decided to take the offensive, considering the force now at his disposal sufficient. He says he will leave nothing to chance. He therefore gave orders yesterday to advance a brigade of infantry, supported by a strong force of Cossacks. Five thousand Cossacks are also advancing in northeastern Corea and are said to be seventy-five miles from the

A despatch to the *Temps* from St. Petersburg says that the difficulties in connection with the purchase of three Argentine cruisers appear to have been removed. One of them, the Garibaldi, was built at Genoa.

SHANGHAI, April 22.—Reports from Chefoo and elsewhere indicate that the Russians in southern Manchuria are expecting an

attack by the Japanese. Some reports state that hostilities on a large scale have begun ashore.

It is said that the Japanese have crossed the Yalu River, meeting with almost no opposition. None of the rumors can be verified, but all point to a clash on land.

Yamamoto, said that plans for the attack on the Korean coast are being made, but that the Japanese have not already begun operations in the Korean peninsula. **APRIL 23.—Reports from several sources lead to the expectation that news of important land operations may be received at any moment.** The Seoul correspondent of the *Chronicle* bears out the statement of the St. Petersburg correspondent of *THE SUN* that heavy fighting has occurred on the Yalu River, the Seoul despatch adding that for strategic reasons it is impossible to say any particulars at present. Another Seoul despatch, dated April 19, says that the arrangements for concerted movements by the Japanese were to be completed on April 20, when there was to be a simultaneous rush from three points.

The second army is supposed to have sailed from Japan on April 16, probably for Port Arthur. Other troops were held at Takushan and other points in the rear of the general advance on Liaoyang. The Guards' Division under Lieut.-Gen. Inoue, will be the first troops sent against the Russians.

Supplies are being landed near Chulson, whence they are being forwarded to Wiju, which will be the future base in Corea. Howitzers are being embarked at Chin-

The Shanghai correspondent of the *Standard* says that the Japanese have landed west of the Yalu River. The Russians are concentrating at Fengwanoheng.

Nothing is certain regarding the movement of the Russian column in northern Korea, except that it has burned the consulate, post office and other Japanese buildings at Songcheng. It is stated from Japanese sources that afterward the Russians retired rapidly toward the Tumen River.

A despatch to the *Express* from Chefoo says that the Japanese plan of attack is

based upon a number of feints at several points on the western coast of the Liaotung Peninsula, and another between the east coast and the Yalu River, probably at Takushan.

None of these will be really meant. The true descent will be on the shores of Taijienwan Bay or one side of Kinchau Bay, and the other where the isolation of Port Arthur can be most easily secured.

The Chefoo correspondent of the *Shanghai* reports an unconfirmed rumor that a large Japanese force is landing on the west coast of the Liaoting Peninsula, about thirty miles north of Port Arthur.

Other reports state that twelve Japanese warships were sighted on Thursday night thirty miles southwest of the Clifford Islands, slowly making their way north. They showed no lights. Several Japanese warships off Wei-hai-wei have stopped ingoing steamers.

The number of floating mines between Port Arthur and Chefoo and Wei-hai-wei make manœuvring unsafe. Japanese torpedo boats are out searching for the mines to pick them up. In view of the extreme danger from the mines, marine insurance rates are likely to be raised.

**JAPS HERE TO BUY HORSES.**  
That's Their Story—More Important Errand,  
Other Folks Think.  
Two Japanese, who are very secretive  
about their mission, have been stopping